acteristics. The embodiments described above are therefore considered to be illustrative in all respects and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description.

What is claimed is:

1. An aqueous ophthalmic solution comprising: 0.5 to 6.0 wt. % of a water soluble borate-polyol complex to enhance the antimicrobial activity of the solution, and water; wherein the borate-polyol complex comprises a borate compound selected from the group consisting of boric acid and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and propylene glycol, and the molar ratio of borate to polyol is 1:0.1 to 1:10.

2. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **1**, wherein the solution further comprises an effective amount of a viscosity-enhancing polymer.

3. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **2**, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer comprises a cellulosic polymer.

4. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **3**, wherein the cellulosic polymer comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

5. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **1**, wherein the solution does not contain an ophthalmically acceptable antimicrobial agent.

6. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **1**, wherein the solution contains the borate-polyol complex in an amount of 1.0 to 2.5 wt. %.

7. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **6**, wherein the molar ratio of borate to polyol is 1:0.1 to 1:1.

8. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **6**, wherein the molar ratio of borate to polyol is 1:0.25 to 1:2.5.

9. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **6**, wherein the solution does not contain any ophthalmically acceptable antimicrobial agent.

10. An aqueous ophthalmic solution comprising: 0.5 to 6.0 wt. % of a water soluble borate-polyol complex to enhance the antimicrobial activity of the solution, and water; wherein the borate-polyol complex comprises a borate compound selected from the group consisting of boric acid and pharmaceutically salts thereof and sorbitol, and the molar ratio of borate to polyol is 1:0.1 to 1:10.

11. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **10**, wherein the solution further comprises an effective amount of a viscosity-enhancing polymer.

12. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **11**, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer comprises a cellulosic polymer.

13. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **12**, wherein the cellulosic polymer comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

14. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **10**, wherein the solution does not contain an ophthalmically acceptable antimicrobial agent.

15. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **10**, wherein the solution contains the borate-polyol complex in an amount of 1.0 to 2.5 wt. %.

16. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **15**, wherein the molar ratio of borate to polyol is 1:0.1 to 1:1.

17. An aqueous ophthalmic composition according to claim **15**, wherein the molar ratio of borate to polyol is 1:0.25 to 1:2.5.

18. An aqueous ophthalmic solution according to claim **15**, wherein the solution does not contain an ophthalmically acceptable antimicrobial agent.

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